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The Greatness and Decline of Rome: Vol. I, The Empire Builders; Vol. II, Julius Caesar. By GUGLIELMO FERRERO. Translated by ALFRED E. ZIMMERN. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1907.

It was a foregone conclusion that the next great history of Rome would be based upon social and economic studies; a reasonable probability that it would emanate from the younger Italian school. Ferrero has written on militarism, on themes social and criminal—it is not for naught that he is a son-in-law of Lombroso. Since the first volume of *Grandezza e decadenza di Roma* appeared, in 1901, three others have continued the story down to the *ludi saeculares* of Augustus, while a fifth is in preparation, and still later volumes are promised. The author made a deep impression a year ago by his lectures at Paris. Among Germans, in the new German translation, he will make his way more slowly, owing to his independence of Mommsen, in bringing Caesar down from his pedestal, as a mere man, with nerves, too, and hardly less prone to change his mind than Cicero. But the permanent value of Ferrero's work lies less in psychological interpretation than in analysis of changing intellectual, social, and economic conditions.

The translation should be read entire before the reader compares the original; for then his woes begin. Zimmermann has perversely omitted to state on what text his work is based. Turning to the Italian of Vol. I, 1906, or Vol. II, 1907, and comparing with Zimmermann, one is simply astounded at the liberties he has taken in insertion, omission, condensation, and inversion. Whole pages are found in the English—fifteen more pages in the Appendix—for which the Italian has no counterpart. We are forced to assume that the author has privately furnished much new matter to his translator, but, until some explanation is forthcoming, one may not safely quote Ferrero in this version. No mantle of charity will cover the unrestrained freedom of translation on every page. An example or two: *quasi di moda*, "an innocent and almost fashionable diversion;" *mutano lo spirito antico*, "undermine its spiritual foundations;" *si preparava la tragica catastrofe*, "the world-tragedy . . . was drawing slowly to its climax." From the heroic we descend abruptly to "bluff," "flush," "loot," and "trek."

A low standard of workmanship shows itself in the notes, which calmly send the reader to the German of Mommsen's first three volumes, but to the Italian for the fifth! Drumann appears to be a total stranger to the translator, for the name is always printed with an *Umlaut*, while Blümner is made to discard his. Bruns is quoted in the edition of 1860. Minor slips, scandalously numerous, seem to prove that the references have rarely been verified.

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